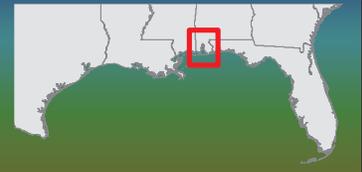




Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Mobile Bay Watershed

Upper Mobile Bay Disposal Site
(USACE_RESTORE_005_000_Cat1)



Project Name: Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site- Planning

Cost: Category 1: \$2,500,000

Responsible Council Member: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Partnering Council Members: State of Alabama and Interagency Working Group members from Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce

Project Details: This project will develop the final design and permitting of a 1,200-acre wetland creation site in the Upper Mobile Bay south of the US Highway 90/98 causeway. The site was developed in coordination with an Interagency Working Group (IWG) established to evaluate sediment management practices in Mobile Bay. The project will be conducted in partnership with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in coordination with the Mobile Bay IWG, consisting of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies including academia and other stakeholders.

Activities: Geotechnical investigations will be initiated to characterize the sediments of the area, provide the load bearing capacities of the existing bay bottom, and to identify the potential for on-site borrow sources for the containment berms. Once the geotechnical results are obtained and processed, the design team and IWG will determine the final shape of the site as well as what portions will need armament and which areas will remain open for tidal influence.

Following planning and engineering, final plans and specifications will be delivered along with the environmental compliance coordination and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. A Department of the Army permit will be submitted in the name of the Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA), the local sponsor for the navigation project.

The intent of the final design is to enable the entire site to have full tidal influence and allow marine life conveyance within the site until it is ultimately filled with dredged material and the wetlands are established.

Environmental Benefits: A project based on these studies, if implemented in the future, would contribute to much-needed conservation of various ecological resources that exist in the Mobile Bay system and for estuarine habitat restoration through the beneficial use of dredged sediments. Additionally, if implemented in the future the project would directly benefit threatened and endangered species such as the Gulf sturgeon, Alabama red-belly turtle, and West Indian manatee.

Duration: Geotechnical investigations will begin immediately following receipt of funds and the entire study will be completed within 18 to 24 months.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix F. Mobile Bay; Unique Identifier: USACE_RESTORE_005_000_Cat1.



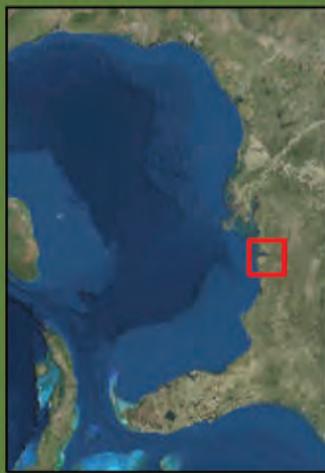
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Mobile Bay Watershed

Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site

 Beneficial Use

Cost: Category 1: \$2,500,000
Sponsor: US Army Corps of Engineers
Project Status: Planning
Purpose: The project will perform the remaining work needed to finalize a design and obtain a permit for a 1,200 acre emergent tidal marsh conceived by the Mobile Harbor Interagency Working Group (IWG). The IWG has invested four years in this concept and have overwhelming support from participating environmental agencies, the Alabama State Port Authority and several non-governmental organizations who want to see a large scale use of native sediments to restore emergent tidal marsh to a historically diverse ecological area.



Map Date: October 14, 2015